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# Loudoun Newcomer Puzzles Neighbors

## *Controversial Leader Lives On Heavily Guarded Estate*

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If you look between the trees along Rte. 704 in rural Loudoun County one weekend day, you might see the men in camouflage fatigues going through their drills, local residents say.

Neighbors say they have grown accustomed to the groups of men with semiautomatic weapons rushing across the rolling fields of the Woodburn Estate outside Leesburg. On a recent Saturday, a resident said, he heard what he thought was shooting from the old estate. "It sounded like light mortar," the neighbor said. "A sort of a 'kapook.'"

The people who stay at the Woodburn Estate say there are no mortar emplacements on the premises. But they say guards there carry an array of handguns—Colt Combat Commanders, Walther PPKs, MAC10s—and other armaments. There are sandbag-outfitted guard posts near the estate's 13-room Georgian mansion, cement barriers along the road and sharp metal spikes in the driveway.

The heavy security is for Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. LaRouche, who lives on the estate, is a perennial right-wing presidential candidate who is convinced he is in imminent danger of assassination by hit teams dispatched by the Libyans, the Soviets or narcotics pushers.

In part because LaRouche says he finds the Loudoun countryside safe, he and his associates are moving into the area in a big way. LaRouche's associates have bought three properties in the county worth a total of more than \$1 million, and they agreed to buy another for \$1.3 million until the deal fell through.

LaRouche, 62, is the leader of a tightly knit worldwide organization known for its shifting ideological stances and apocalyptic rhetoric, according to interviews with former associates of LaRouche, numerous individuals familiar with the group, and government and law enforcement officials, as well as an examination of the group's internal documents and publicly distributed literature.

LaRouche's group blames many of the world's ills on plots by the Soviet secret police, the queen of England, "the dope lobby," Jewish organizations and other groups it considers to be its enemies, the organization's literature shows. The group has 500 to 1,000 members, former associates of LaRouche say.

The group, which started as a left-wing socialist sect in the 1960s but which turned to the right in the

1970s, has espoused an ideology that some Jewish groups say is anti-Semitic. Its philosophy is a mishmash, but the main thrust is that LaRouche and his followers are virtually the only force on Earth able to stop nuclear war and world starvation.

The organization supports itself financially through a variety of means, including sales of its literature and intelligence-gathering for corporations and individuals, said LaRouche and some associates. He gets public funds as well—LaRouche's recent presidential campaign received \$494,000 in federal matching funds, federal records said.

So far, in addition to renting the Woodburn property, corporations operated by LaRouche's associates have bought three properties in Loudoun for \$1,048,000. At this point, about 25 of LaRouche's associates have joined LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in the Leesburg area, sources said.

The group also has decided to move many operations of its national headquarters from Manhattan to Loudoun, say people familiar with the group. As many as 200 LaRouche followers are expected to move there to work in a new printing plant and office complex the group is building in a Leesburg industrial park, according to former members of the group and a Loudoun County official.

In this historic region, where monuments pay tribute to Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederacy and farms stay in the hands of families for seven generations, residents are greeting LaRouche with intense curiosity. They do not know how to react to him, and some are afraid.

"We feel if we rock the boat, they could get nasty with us," said one county resident who has dealt with LaRouche's associates but who, like most of the dozen or so local people interviewed, does not want to be identified. "We have to coexist with them, but we don't agree with their political beliefs."

To Leesburg Police Chief James Kidwell, Lyndon LaRouche's entry into Loudoun County is shaping up as a clash of cultures.

"Out here are more country people," Kidwell said. "It's a different world they're in. They'll learn as they go along. The things they're interested in, the country people aren't interested in."

Indeed, LaRouche and his group seem strikingly out of character in a variety of ways in slow-paced, neighborly Loudoun.

According to former members of LaRouche's organization and other individuals familiar with its operation, group members follow LaRouche's dictates almost without question. Members of the group—

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